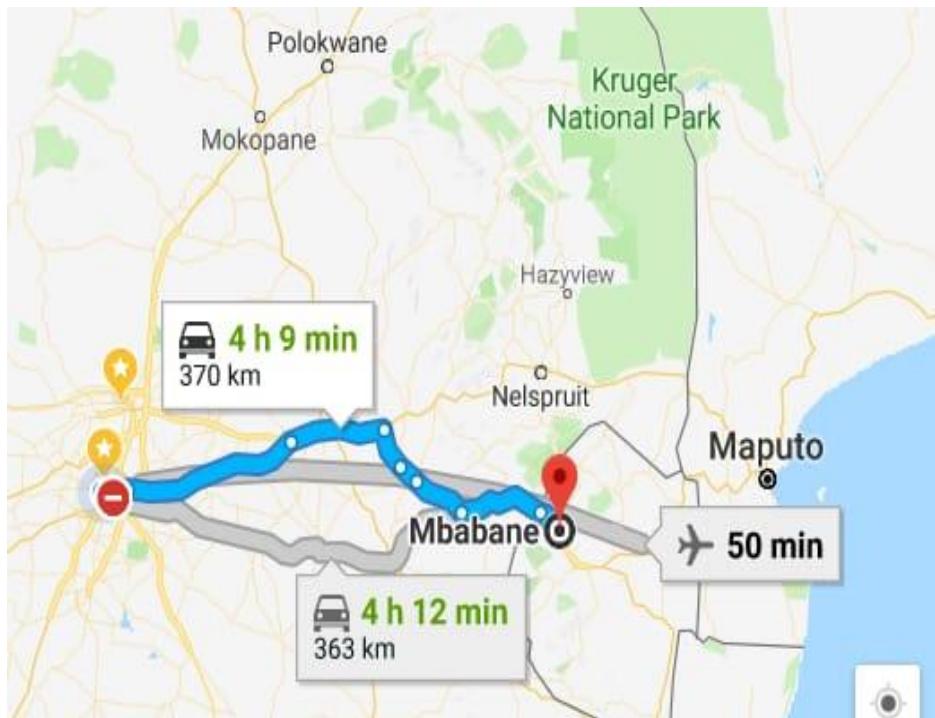


SAME DESTINATION DIFFERENT JOURNEYS



~ Siya Mamba

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DESTINATION

- The purpose for which something is predetermined or destined. 2: a place to which one is journeying...

~ Merriam-Webster

Social Media is a sphere where people express their current and desired lifestyles and dreams. A sphere where achievements, events, feelings, thoughts, special occasions and so forth are highlighted. One can observe from what is portrayed that many desire to reach the same destination in life. However, the distinguished routes we take determine the duration and nature of the journey. We do not reach our destinations at the same speed, the same duration or at the same time.

Depending on the mode of transport used i.e. air, road, railway, water or pipeline; one's journey is bound to be unique. Some may have mountains to climb, some oceans to cross, some valleys to walk through each of which has its own unpredictable obstacles. Question is what do you do when you are confronted with an obstacle on your path? DO YOU TURN AROUND AND GIVE UP OR DO YOU KEEP GOING? If it's a pothole or speed hump the sensible thing to do is to slow down and keep moving forward. The pothole slows you down but does not end your journey.

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The travelling journey can be likened to our walk in life. We all go through different paths to get to our destiny. One may be in the valley, while another enjoys the mountain top. In essence, understand that in as much as we may be heading towards the same destination, our journeys are not the same as we are wired for different purposes. Some routes in your journey will be smoother than others. It may be your academic route, career route, business route, ministry route, marriage route and so forth, one of them will be smoother than others. Yours is to keep moving forward, giving up doesn't get you any closer to your destiny.



Figure 1: Our Routes Are Not the Same

While on your path, some may overtake you but don't be discouraged or even begin to compare yourself. Stay committed to your path, comparison can be a killer of your destiny. Embrace the uniqueness of your journey.

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Figure 2: Keep Moving

The vehicles depicted in figure 2 may be heading towards the same destination however the duration of the journey will differ due to their design and horsepower rating. The mechanical design of the truck has a limited speed capacity of 100 km/h, while the light vehicle has a limited speed capacity of 240 km/h. The mechanical limitations of the truck will not hinder it from reaching the final destination. This analogy can be likened to the creation of man, God has divinely, purposefully and willfully capacitated each individual to prosper within the design of their unique journey.

Therefore maintain your pace and congratulate others for their early arrivals. Don't despair, though they have arrived before you, you will most assuredly reach your final destination. Stay in your lane, it is preordained for your journey.

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The gestation period of an elephant approaches two years while that of an Impala takes year. I strongly believe that an elephant knows that other animals may give birth before it but it does not mean it will not give birth. The duration of our ‘pregnancy’ may differ but giving birth to our destiny is inevitable. Do not think of aborting your destiny i.e. changing a course, career, business and so forth just because your peers are giving birth before you. The weight of the baby you will be giving birth (destiny) might require you to endure for longer.



Figure 3: Do Not Compare Yourself

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We may be at the same institution, same faculty, same lecture hall, enrolled for the same course, but our journeys will not resonate. The reality of some living below the poverty threshold means that some will be less privileged than others. There will be some who are limited in terms of having the basic needs in life such as food, clothing, shelter, security and so forth. These limitations may inevitably affect their academic performance. In my second year of study, I had to find a part-time job in a retail store and also work as a demonstrator for one of the first year modules in order to earn an income. I needed the income to help myself and family to get by. As a result of the weight I had to carry, my academic performance dropped and an extra year was added to my academic journey. However, this did not deter me from pursuing my goals as I knew there would be no gain in giving up. I had to go the extra mile in my pursuit for education and financial freedom. Commit yourself to doing whatever it takes to reach your destination and you will be rewarded in time.

Social media feeds are flooded with news of students committing suicide for varying reasons which include academic delay. Some perhaps feel embarrassed as their fellow friends whom they started the academic journey with managed to finish in record time. A guiding principle I live by is to always ‘give your best or nothing at all’. If you don’t manage to reach your target, remind yourself that you are the best even in the midst of failure. Remember I once said “Failure is an important ingredient of success”.

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In conclusion, note the following guidelines:

1. As long as you live continue to put one foot in front of the other.
2. Understand that letting go does not equate to giving up. It's an act of moving on as if nothing has ever happened and empowers you to accept the things that you cannot change.
3. Any change, loss, failure or delay does not conclude your destiny, keep moving forward!

I will persist until I succeed. I was not delivered into this world into defeat, nor does failure course my veins. I am not a sheep waiting to be prodded by my shepherd. I am a lion, and I refuse to talk, walk and to sleep with the sheep. I will persist until I succeed.

~ OG MANDINO

#DRESSUP. SHOWUP. N. NEVER_GIVEUP

Siya Mxolisi Mamba is a Swaziland born young self-driven, multi-skilled leader, master of ceremonies, Pastor, mentor, motivational and inspirational coach as well as an aspiring author and entrepreneur with an Electrical and Electronic Engineering (BEng) academic background. He is the founder of a dynamic youth-led movement called Ark of Nations with the vision of propagating the gospel of Christ while igniting transformation across the globe. Siya keeps the flame of ambition and drive burning within him through continual meditation and confession of the following motto: “there’s no gain in giving up, so keep moving”.

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Pain is temporary. Quitting lasts forever

